

CLAIMS:

1. A method for processing imagewise exposed silver halide light sensitive motion picture photographic print film elements, the method comprising:

i) classifying imagewise exposed print film elements containing cyan, magenta and yellow dye-forming couplers present at levels sufficient to provide Visual densities of at least 3.3 when completely consumed as either a relatively high silver containing element or a relatively low silver containing element;

ii) providing a developer solution comprising greater than 2.1 g/l Color Developing Agent CD-2, greater than 0.3 and less than 2.1 g/l of Sodium Bromide (Anhydrous), and a buffering agent to maintain pH in the range of from about 10 to about 12;

iii) developing imagewise exposed print film elements which have been classified as relatively low silver containing elements in a development step wherein the exposed print film is first processed in the developer solution provided in step ii) above, and in a subsequent development amplification step wherein the exposed print film is processed in an amplifier solution comprising bromide salt and an oxidizing agent; and

iv) developing imagewise exposed print film elements which have been classified as relatively high silver containing elements in a development step wherein the exposed print film is processed in the developer solution provided in ii) above.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein print film elements which have been classified as relatively high silver containing elements and which have been imagewise developed in step iv) by processing in the developer solution provided in ii) are not subjected to a subsequent development amplification step as defined in step iii).

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the developer solution comprises at least 3.1 g/l Color Developing Agent CD-2.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the developer solution comprises from 0.5 to 1.7 g/l of Sodium Bromide (anhydrous).

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the developer solution comprises from 0.5 to 1.3 g/l of Sodium Bromide (anhydrous).

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the developer solution comprises an antioxidant.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the antioxidant comprises Sodium Sulfite.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the buffering agent comprises Sodium Carbonate.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the amplifier solution comprises hydrogen peroxide.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein the amplifier solution comprises from 0.3 to 12 g of H₂O₂ per liter.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the amplifier solution comprises from about 10 to 150 g/l of the developer solution provided in step ii).

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein print films having a total silver level of at least 1350 mg/m² are classified as relatively high silver containing elements, and print films having a total silver level of less than 1350 mg/m² are classified as relatively low silver containing elements in step i).

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein imagewise exposed print film elements which have been classified as relatively low silver containing elements are processed in the developer solution for at least 45 seconds at a temperature of at least 90F, and subsequently processed in the amplifier solution for at least 45 seconds at a temperature of at least 90 F.

14. A method according to claim 12, wherein imagewise exposed print film elements which have been classified as relatively high silver containing elements are processed in the developer solution for longer than 1 minute at a temperature of at least 90 F.

15. A method according to claim 12, wherein imagewise exposed print film elements which have been classified as relatively low silver containing elements are processed in the developer solution for from 45 to 90 seconds at a temperature of from 90 to 102 F, and subsequently processed in the amplifier solution for from 45 to 90 seconds at a temperature of from 90 to 102 F, and wherein imagewise exposed print film elements which have been classified as relatively high silver containing elements are processed in the developer solution for from about 2 to 3 minutes at a temperature of from 90 to 102 F.

16. A method according to claim 1, wherein the print film elements comprise a support bearing on one side thereof: a blue color sensitive, yellow dye image-forming record comprising at least one blue-sensitive silver halide emulsion having associated therewith yellow dye-forming coupler; a red color sensitive, cyan dye image-forming record comprising at least one red-sensitive silver halide emulsion having associated therewith cyan dye-forming coupler; and a green color sensitive, magenta dye image-forming record comprising at least one green-sensitive silver halide emulsion having associated therewith magenta dye-forming coupler; each of the silver halide emulsions have an average grain size of less than 1 micrometer and comprise at least 50 mol percent chloride, based on silver; the silver halide emulsions of relatively low silver containing elements in total comprise less than 1350 mg/m^2 silver, and the silver halide emulsions of relatively high silver containing elements in total comprise at least 1350 mg/m^2 silver; and the silver to dye-forming coupler stoichiometric equivalent molar ratio in each of the image-forming records of a relatively low silver containing element developed in step iii) is less than 1.4, and the silver to dye-forming coupler stoichiometric equivalent molar ratio in at least

one of the image-forming records of the relatively low silver containing element processed in step iii) is less than 1.0.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein maximum visual densities of at least 3.3 are obtained for both relatively high silver containing elements processed in step iv) and relatively low silver containing elements processed in step iii).

18. A method according to claim 16, wherein maximum visual densities of at least 3.6 are obtained for both relatively high silver containing elements processed in step iv) and relatively low silver containing elements processed in step iii).

19. A method according to claim 16, wherein the Equivalent Neutral Density Dmax in the cyan and yellow color records of both relatively high silver containing elements processed in step iv) and relatively low silver containing elements processed in step iii) are within 20% of the Equivalent Neutral Density Dmax in the green record.

20. A method according to claim 16, wherein the visual Dmin for both relatively high silver containing elements processed in step iv) and relatively low silver containing elements processed in step iii) is less than 0.1.